(RMS) 2006-07) was 92.26 lakh tonnes against the estimate of 162 lakh tonnes. The low level of procurement of wheat in RMS 2006-07 was on account of high ruling market prices, lower than the targeted production of wheat in crop year 2005-06, negative market sentiments, low market arrivals and more active participation by private traders.

(c) to (e) Keeping in view the low trend in procurement of wheat, the Government announced an incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal higher than the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Rs. 650 per quintal on 21st April, 2006. However, inspite of this incentive bonus, the Government was not able to procure the required quantity of wheat from the domestic market and it was decided to meet the deficit through imports.

Surrender of posts relating to safety

*200. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that various divisions of the indian Railways have surrendered 1.90 lakh posts beloning to safety category between 2001 and 2006;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 500 posts again belonging to safety category have been surrendered in Vijayawada Division alone during the last five years;

(c) if so, whether it would not affect the safety of the Railways which is being criticized due to a lot of accidents and put more pressure on the existing staff which hinders their efficiency; and

(d) looking at the whole scenario, whether Government are considering to avoid surrendering of posts and fill up the posts of important categories like safety?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRILALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) The overall sanctioned strength of safety categories in Indian Railways has increased over the period 2001 to 2006 by about 30% Posts belonging to safety categories have been surrendered in Vijayawada Division due to introduction of panel interlocking system, work-study and other technological inputs.

(c) While monitoring the staff strength, safety of train operations is always emphasized so that the desired quality of output is achieved by employing optimum number of staff.

(d) Sanctioned strength is reviewed regularly by surrendering posts due to changing work practices and introduction of new technology, and posts are also created as and when required against new assets nad new services. Filling up of vacancies is a continuous process.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Vehicular Pollution

1174. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the increased use of vehicles in the country the vehicular pollution load has gone up eight times in twenty years indicating a dire warning;

(b) the steps taken by Government especially, to curb the air pollution keeping in the view the increased use of vehicles; and

(c) Government's policy on advanced technology solutions for the automobile industries to control air pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No specific studies have been conducted to indicate increase in the vehicular pollution load in the country during the last twenty years by eight times. However, due to steps taken for vehicular pollution control, vehicular emission loads have been contained.

Steps that have been taken up by the Government for controlling vehicular pollution are as follows:

- A road map upto 2010 has been laid down by the Expert Committee on Auto Fuel Policy for controlling Vehicular pollution from both new as well as inuse vehicles all over the country;
- Fuel quality commensurate with emission norms has been implemented all over the country;